

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00485 040946Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----040953Z 123561 /14
P 040830Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6157

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0485

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, US, SF, BY
SUBJ: MONDALE-VORSTER MEETING

REF : STATE 99551

1. ON MAY 3, I BRIEFED FONMIN MUGANGA ALONG LINES OF
REFTEL.

2. HIS REACTION WAS IMMEDIATELY FAVORABLE. HE SAID NO
STONE SHOULD BE LEFT UNTURNED TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A
PEACEFUL
SOLUTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SOMETIMES WARS
WERE NECESSARY, BUT NOT RPT NOT OFTEN. MILITARY ACTION IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD NOT ONLY MEAN UNTOLD LOSS OF LIFE,
BUT ALSO A SETBACK OF AT LEAST ONE OR TWO DECADES IN
ECONOMIES OF ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. HE HAD BEEN VERY
PLEASED BY REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT, AND HE WAS SURE THAT
U.S. HAD GREAT INFLUENCE WHICH IT COULD BRING TO BEAR IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

3. I CAUTIONED THAT ONE COULD NOT REALISTICALLY EXPECT
RAPID SUCCESS, AND IT WAS DELICATE TO BE PRESSING SOUTH
AFRICA FOR AID ON THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN QUESTIONS
AT THE SAME TIME AS WE WERE INSISTING THAT SOUTH AFRICA
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HAD TO START REFORMING ITSELF. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CARTER
HAD SHOWN HIS DETERMINATION TO STAND FIRMLY ON CIVIL
RIGHTS, WITHIN THE U.S. AS WELL AS ABROAD. IT WAS COST-
ING US SOME TENSIONS EVEN WITH SUCH OLD FRIENDS AS BRAZIL,
BUT WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BACK OFF FROM FIRMNESS WITH
SOUTH AFRICA OVER APARTHEID AND POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR THE
BLACK MAJORITY THERE. I NOTED THAT WE HAD EVEN HAD OUR

PROBLEMS WITH BURUNDI OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PAST,
THOUGH I THOUGHT THE NEW REGIME WAS HEADING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION.

4. MUGANGA SAID THE BAGAZA GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED HUMAN
RIGHTS GENERALLY AND WAS TRYING TO RIGHT OLD WRONGS IN
BURUNDI. IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH WOULD
KNOW NO EASY OR EARLY SOLUTION. THE LEADERSHIP WOULD
KEEP UP CONTINUOUS PRESSURE ON THE CIVIL SERVICE AND
OTHERS TO MOVE TOWARD EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND OPPORT-
UNITY FOR ALL, BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY LONG-RUN HOPE.
BUH OLD ATTITUDES DIED HARD, AND THERE WOULD BE RESISTANCE
FROM BOTH OPPONENTS AND THOSE MERELY ENCRUSTED WITH
STAND-PATISM AND TRADITION.

5. COMMENT: IT DOES NOT RPT NOT REALLY MATTER WHAT
BURUNDI
THINKS ABOUT OUR ROLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, BECAUSE BURUNDI
CUTS LITTLE ICE IN AFRICAN CIRCLES. HOWEVER, IT IS NICE
TO HEAR SOME APPRECIATION OF THE VIRTUES OF GRADUALISM.
I AM SURE THAT MUCH OF MUGANGA'S INSIGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT
STEM FROM HIS REALIZATION THAT INTRACTAB-LE PROBLEMS,
WHETHER INSSOURTHERN AFRICA OR BETWEEN HUTUS AND TUTSIS
IN BURUNDI TAKE MUCH TIME, PATIENCE AND GOOD WILL TO

RESOLVE PEACEFULLY EVEN PART WAY.
MARK

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